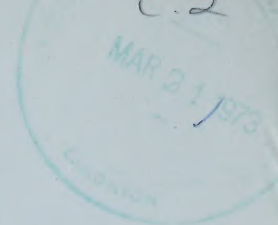
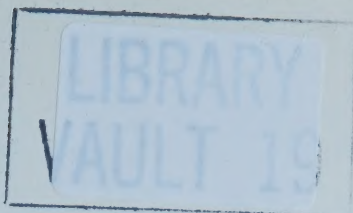


CA2 ALXC 7
A56
1972
c.2

Legislative Assembly



ALBERTA LEGISLATURE LIBRARY



3 3398 00406 1452

ALBERTA HANSARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1972

HONOURABLE GERARD AMERONGEN

SPEAKER

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library

EDMONTON, Alberta

February 28, 1973

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta:

I have the honour to submit herewith a report on the publication of the ALBERTA HANSARD, being the record of the deliberations and proceedings of the first Session of the 17th Legislature of Alberta.

Gerard Amerongen
Speaker



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
University of Alberta Library

https://archive.org/details/ableg_33398004061452

Rule 24a of Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceedings of the
Legislative Assembly of Alberta

- (1) There shall be a printed record of the deliberations and proceedings of the sittings of the Assembly to be known as the "Alberta Hansard" which shall be compiled, edited, printed, distributed and administered under the direction and authority of the Speaker, in accordance with this rule.
- (2) The Speaker may engage such staff and obtain such materials as is necessary for the production of the Alberta Hansard.
- (3) The Speaker shall be responsible for the maintenance of sound recording equipment for the recording of the deliberations and proceedings of the sittings of the Assembly and the custody of the taped records produced therefrom.
- (4) The Alberta Hansard shall be produced daily from the taped records of the sittings of the Assembly.
- (5) The guidelines used by the Speaker in editing shall be as follows:
 - (a) revisions shall be limited to the correction of grammar, spelling and punctuation, ensuring that the correct parliamentary forms are observed, and minimizing superfluous repetition and redundancies but no material alterations shall be made, nor any amendments which would in any way tend to change the sense of what has been spoken;
 - (b) the transcript shall remain an accurate and, as far as possible, an exact report of what was said;
 - (c) a member has no right to alter the report of any speech or remarks attributed to him in any way and the Speaker shall determine whether or not a member's suggested correction shall be admitted;
 - (d) unless otherwise agreed upon with the Speaker, a member must inform the editor within 30 minutes of the adjournment of any sitting of the Assembly of any corrections he wishes to suggest;
 - (e) unless a member can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Speaker, that he has been misreported, a member may not change the sense of any thing that he has been recorded as saying, nor shall the member be permitted to make any insertion as an afterthought nor strike out a passage which he regrets having uttered.
- (6) Copies of the Alberta Hansard will be made available at no charge as follows:

- (a) each member of the Assembly shall receive one copy and, in the discretion of the Speaker, may receive no more than nine additional copies;
 - (b) Deputy Ministers of Departments of the public service shall receive not more than five copies for the use of their Departments;
 - (c) the Provincial Librarian, the Provincial Archivist and libraries and newspapers approved by the Speaker shall receive one copy.
- (7) Other copies of the Alberta Hansard will be provided at the following rates:
- (a) Daily \$ 15.00 per annum
 - (b) Weekly \$ 12.50 per annum
 - (c) Sessionally \$ 10.00 per annum
 - (d) Individual copies 25 cents each
- (8) The Alberta Hansard shall commence with an issue for March 2nd, 1972 and shall consist of an issue for every day of the sittings of the Legislative Assembly thereafter.
- (9) The Speaker shall table an annual report of the Alberta Hansard within 15 days of the commencement of each Session, commencing in 1973.

APPLICATION OF RULES

Difficulties in the application of the Hansard terms of reference to actual production were encountered during the Spring sittings of the 1972 Session. Most of these resulted from the need for hasty preparation of staff, equipment and printing services following the Government's decision, confirmed by the Assembly, to proceed. As a result unavoidable delays in publication mounted and final issues were only delivered during the first week in August after adjournment in June. Samples of the several experiences that frustrated timely publication are:

- (a) staff recruitment and training
- (b) Members' proofing procedure
- (c) sound system deficiencies
- (d) administrative and organizational duties that interfered with editorial functions.

Many of the difficulties were removed or, at least, ameliorated when the Assembly reconvened in October. Deliveries of all but four issues were made within the 24-hour time target. It is worth noting that Mr. J. P. Swann, who was retained as Hansard Senior Editor for the 1972 Session, provided continuous and unrelenting attention to publication supervision. Indeed progress toward full accomplishment would undoubtedly have been severely hampered were it not for his intensive effort.

Following are data supplemented by comments in the four principle subdivisions of the Alberta Hansard administration, namely:

- (a) Equipment and staff
- (b) Printing
- (c) Distribution
- (d) Financing.

EQUIPMENT AND STAFF

Equipment consisted of a sound recording system in the Assembly chamber, ten IBM 2741 computer terminals hooked to the Data Centre IBM computer, supported by tape play-back equipment, and three tape recorders to play-back tapes from the sound system for editors. Debate was recorded via the sound system on two sets of tapes simultaneously to provide back-up in case of failure. One set, running at 3 3/4 inches per second, was used by terminal typists to transcribe the spoken word into written (typed) document; the second set, running at 15/16 inches per second, was held in storage and transferred to the Provincial Archivist following adjournment.

Staffing required the recruitment of at least seven dicta-typists (additional employees were often required for night sittings), a sound system console operator, at least four to six editors and proof-readers, and an editorial research assistant, all under supervision of the Senior Editor. Subsequently, during the October-November sittings a print-out sorter and messenger was hired to expedite the movement of unproofed copy to editors.

The use of an IBM data bank and related equipment for transcription storage provided some advantages over other similar word processing systems. The speed with which editors' copy could be produced from the computer and reproduced as subsequent editions of the same copy were required by editors was determined to equal the rate of competing transcription systems and at considerably less cost. The data bank is also capable of accepting a Hansard contents index programmed to search out and reproduce portions of texts as required. The 1972 index remains unfinished and is set aside until the end of the 1973 Spring sittings. The availability and assistance of computer technicians, already employed by the

Government Data Centre was a gratuitous service worthy of note.

While the computer system was retained for Hansard production throughout the 1972 Session, the Speaker and his staff maintained a continuing search and review of alternative word processing systems, notably the I.B.M.-M.T.S.T. and Redactron Dual Magnetic systems. There is some doubt as to the need for computer storage of debate once it has been reproduced in printed form, particularly when back up tape from the sound system is retained in Archives.

Hansard operations are, by virtue of the duration of the Assembly, intermittent. Staffing is therefore basically temporary and as a result it was difficult to attract and retain fully qualified and experienced dicta-typists and editors. The Hansard job presents certain distractions to otherwise qualified employees because of the rather precise deadlines which must be met in a 24-hour production schedule. Even the operation of the sound system console calls for a high degree of sustained mental and physical alertness, often well into the night. By continuous review of these problems with the Temporary Services Division of the Public Service Commissioner, who conducts the Hansard recruitment program, the wage scale was adjusted, wherever possible within the Public Service framework, to provide suitable remuneration to Hansard employees. A few recommendations have been received dealing with the possible seconding of Hansard employees from other Public Service agencies during Sessions of the Assembly. To date all have appeared to be either impractical or without fruitful support. Consideration was also given to solving employee recruitment problems by contracting comprehensively for Hansard publication; this is still a valid possibility.

Considerable credit is due to a number of individuals on

the Hansard staff establishment whose diligence and persistence coupled with ability and strength provided probably the best first year performance possible. The IBM Data equipment operated with reasonable reliability.

Salary rates - Senior Editor	- \$1,400 per month
- Assistant Editors	- \$5.00 - \$6.00 per hour
- Editorial Assistant	- \$5.00 per hour
- Dicta-Typists	- \$2.90 - \$3.35 per hour
- Console Operator	- \$2.51 - \$2.64 per hour
- Messenger	- \$1.96 per hour

Total expenditure salaries and wages - \$64,000.

Total expenditure machine rental and related equipment - \$26,000.

PRINTING

The complete Hansard for the 1972 Session consisted of eighty separate daily issues. Sixty issues of the Spring sittings were printed by the Queen's Printer and twenty issues covering the Fall sittings were printed by University of Alberta Printing Services. All printing was by photo-offset method from edited copy provided by computer print-out. Issues 61 to 80 (Fall sittings) were printed on "Opaque Litho" book stock and pages were increased one-half inch in width creating a notable decrease in the bulk of those issues compared with issues 1 to 60. The average size of each issue was almost precisely 60 pages, though they ranged from as little as 12 pages on Opening Day to as high as 100 pages on a day when the House sat until 11:40 p.m. The change in paper stock made prior to the Fall sittings also provided minor improvement in Hansard readability though the type-face of computer print-out still leaves much to be desired in print appearance.

Following conclusion of the first Session, the Speaker and his staff conducted an intensive review into the possibility of photo-typesetting from computer output. This review was also coupled with the review of alternative word-processing systems referred to earlier in this report. Investigation was also conducted into the advisability of increasing the page size to 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches from the current 7 inch by 10 inch size. The Speaker understands that Government is proposing a standard 8 1/2 inch by 11 inch (quarto) size for most if not all of its documents. It would seem reasonable that Hansard adopt such a measure for several reasons, notably: reduction of bulk, use of two column printing, and the reduction of paper cost when printers restock for quarto size in response to the large volume of all Government printing. However until the quarto size is adopted on a larger scale Hansard could not do so without adding to its production cost.

Total printing costs were approximately \$29,000, being rated at about \$6.30 per page and an average cost of \$375 per issue. Some delays in the provision of copy to the printer added to costs when overtime labor had to be provided to meet publication deadlines.

DISTRIBUTION

The terms of reference for Hansard distribution are contained in Rule 24a of Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceedings of the Assembly. Final circulation figures for the 1972 Session reached 950 copies, of which approximately 500 were revenue-producing subscriptions and the balance were provided free of charge to M.L.A.s, libraries, consulates and government departments.

It was discovered that the terms of reference did not

adequately accomodate some by-products of publication that turned out to be desirable to M.L.A.s and other subscribers. The Speaker exercised his discretionary authority in the matter of the quantity of copies provided to Members, Government agencies and libraries, apparently to a degree acceptable to the Assembly. However such additional features as discounts for educational institutions, temporary binders, provision of reprints and fully bound sets of the complete Hansard to Members and other subscribers were neither authorized nor properly accounted for. The Speaker has prepared an amendment to the Rules which is appended to his report (Appendix "A") and he seeks the consideration of the Assembly on his proposals. The Assembly may also wish to consider the advisability of amending the tariff list in such a way as to provide the Speaker with additional flexibility in the matter of subscription rates, free distribution and accessories.

During Spring sittings the job of wrapping and mailing copies of Hansard to subscribers proved to be time consuming and inefficient. Prior to October 25, 1972 the Editor designed and established a mailing wrapper, addressed by computer print-out and applied by the Printer at no extra charge, that appreciably reduced the labour and time required for prompt distribution. The mailing "list" was fully computerized and additions, deletions and address changes were made via command through computer terminals.

While the circulation figure for Hansard is not as large as might have been expected, its distribution among Members of the Assembly and its provision of a precise record of their debates appear to be greatly appreciated by the Members collectively.

FINANCING

The original estimate of the cost of Hansard, \$48,000, fell well below the final expenditure which amounted to approximately

\$120,000 at year's end. About 10 per cent of additional cost may be attributed to inexperience and the usual trials which accompany a new venture. It seems unlikely however that subsequent costs for the same or a similar method of production can be expected to be reduced below \$1350 to \$1400 per sitting day.

Expenditures were divided approximately as follows:

Staffing	-	53 per cent
Printing	-	25 per cent
Equipment	-	10 per cent
Sundries, postage and supplies	-	12 per cent

Revenue from subscriptions amounted to \$7,634.

A P P E N D I X " A "

Proposed that:

1. Subrule (1) is amended by striking out the words "the sittings" and by substituting therefor the words "each sitting day".
2. Subrule (2) is amended by striking out the word "is" and by substituting therefor the word "are".
3. Subrule (6) is amended by striking out clause (c) and by substituting the following therefor:
 - "(c) The Queen's Printer, the Provincial Librarian, the Provincial Archivist, the Law Clerk of the Assembly and libraries and news media approved by the Speaker shall each receive one copy."
4. Subrule (7) is amended by striking out clauses (a), (b), (c) and (d) and by substituting the following therefor:
 - "(a) Daily - \$15.00 per annum
 - (b) Sessionally - \$10.00 per annum
 - (c) Individual copies of a daily issue - 25 cents per copy
 - (d) Bound volumes of a full Session - \$15.00 per set
 - (e) A Provincial university, a public college in Alberta, a Provincial Institute of Technology, a Board of Trustees of a School District or Division under The School Act and the School Committee of a County may each receive a copy at costs set out in clauses (a) and (b) subject to a discount amounting to 50 per cent."
5. The following subrule is added immediately after subrule (8):
 - "(9) Copies of Members' speeches or portions thereof may be obtained, at cost of reprinting, by Members upon written request addressed to the Clerk."
6. Subrule (9) is renumbered "(10)".



ALBERTA

LEGISLATURE LIBRARY
216 LEGISLATURE BUILDING
10800 - 97 AVENUE N.W.
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
T5K 2B6

